

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 130673

R 221349Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL TORONTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3219

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS TORONTO 1710

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CA

SUBJ: REACTION TO AMBASSADOR PORTER S REMARKS TO PRESS

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK, THE CONTINUING PRESSPLAY OF AMBASSADOR PORTER S MEETING WITH NEWSPAPERMEN AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU S REACTION THERETO HAS BEEN MUCH DISCUSSED IN TORONTO. OUR BUSINESS CONTACTS, FOR THE MOST PART, HAVE MADE KNOWN THIER APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR PORTER S REMARKS. MANY OF THEM HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE AMERICAN VIEW OF RECENT CANADIAN ACTIONS NEEDED SAYING AT THIS TIME.

2. SUCH VIEWS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT BEEN UNANIMOUS, ALTHOUGH SUPPORTED BY TWO OF THE THREE TORONTO DAILIES, THE GLOBE AND MAIL AND THE SUN. THE CRITICAL REACTION TO THE AMBASSADOR S REMARKS PROMOTED BY THE ULTRA NATIONALISTIC TORONTO STAR, THE NEWSPAPER WITH THE GREATEST CIRCULATION IN CANADA, OF COURSE HAS INFLUENCED SOME PORTION OF ITS READERS. WE HAVE HEARD SOME EXPRESS VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN AGREEMENT WITH THE STAR.

3. MARK HARRISON, EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF THE TORONTO STAR, WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS PAPER S CORRESPONDENT IN OTTAWA NOT BEING INVITED TO THE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR. HE TOLD OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER THAT THE STAR S EDITORIAL MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS CRITICAL IF THEY HAD HAD THE FULL STORY INSTEAD OF RELYING ON CANADIAN PRESS WHICH WAS ALSO UNREPRESENTED.

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RM JOHN HARBRON, A WELL-KNOWN AND SUCCESSFUL CANADIAN JOURNALIST WHO SPECIALIZES INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE THOMSON NEWSPAPERS BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, WHEN DISCUSSING THE AMBASSADOR REMARKS WITH ME, PLACED THEM AND THE INTEREST THEREBY GENERATED IN AN HISTORICAL FRAME. HE SAID THAT EARLIER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WERE SOLELY CONCERNED WITH OBTAINING CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN POSITIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, WITH THE VIETNAM WAR BEING THE MAIN ITEM IN RECENT YEARS. NOW THE JOB OF THE AMERICAN AAMBASSADOR IN CANADA HAS A DIFFERENT EMPHASIS. HE IS NOW CONFRONTED WITH ISSUES WITH CANADA, ARISING FROM THE GROWING CANADIAN NATIONALISM TREND, IN THIS CONNECTION, HARBRON SAID THAT FOR MANY YEARS HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SELL A STORY ABOUT CANADA TO THE US PRESS ALTHOUGH SELLING MANY STORIES ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LATIN AMERICAN. DURING THE PAST YEAR, HE HAS HAD NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR ARTICLES ABOUT CANADIAN-AMERICAN ISSUES, MANY OF THEM THE SAME AS THOSE ABOUT WHICH AMBASSADOR PORTER SPOKE. YLITALO

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 NOV 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 NOV 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO AMBASSADOR PORTER S REMARKS TO PRESS  
**TAGS:** EINV, SOPN, CA, US, THE SUN, THE GLOBE, THE TORONTO STAR, (PORTER, WILLIAM J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006